

means of combatting common weeds; but its success is almost entirely dependent upon the manner and persistency with which the soil is cultivated. To insure reasonable success, frequently, while the weeds are still small and the crops, while growing, should be given frequent cultivation. The same tillage operations that are used in putting the soil in a condition to receive and conserve rainfall, to prepare the seed bed and liberate plant food, are likewise useful in combatting weeds.

STRIPPING FODDER

Stripping leaves from the corn stalks, as commonly practiced, is not regarded as profitable by agricultural experts. In work done at the Missouri experiment station for a number of years, stripping the leaves from the corn caused an average decrease of more than eighteen per cent in the yield of corn. The decrease in the yield of corn made the fodder cost about \$15 per thousand bundles besides the labor of pulling. Good fodder can usually be obtained for about \$10 per thousand bundles. The earlier the pulling of the fodder is done the greater the decrease in the yield of corn. If the pulling of the fodder is delayed so late as not to injure the grain yield, the fodder is practically worthless. The much better plan is to grow hays, especially leguminous hays, for you can save more hay in one day with the mower and rake than you can save in two weeks by pulling fodder.

NOVEL METHOD OF CANNING BEEF

The problem of providing a supply of fresh meat for the farm home is solved by an Iowa farmer in a novel manner. Late in the fall he kills a medium sized animal, and carefully selects the choice cuts that he desires to save for summer use. These are cut into convenient size, sea-

soned with salt and pepper, and placed in ordinary quart fruit jars. These jars are then placed in a wash boiler in water of sufficient depth to reach well to the top and placed on the range to cook for about three hours. The caps were placed on loosely on the jars and removed at the end of the boiling period for placing on the rubber bands, then replaced and tightly screwed on, and the meat carefully set away. A sufficient amount of liquid was produced from the boiling to serve every purpose in the jars. Meat put up in this fashion will keep indefinitely and when the jars are opened it will be found as fresh and juicy as fresh meat. It is especially attractive for summer use. Farmers who have been putting up meat in this way never think of letting a winter go by without providing the beef supply for the next spring and summer.

THE VALUE OF A SILO

A bulletin of the Connecticut experiment station says that "the silo is the poor man's necessity and the rich man's luxury, for by it both gain a better and more independent living." It is a well known fact that much more of the nutrients in the corn plant and other forage crops can be saved in the silo than by any other method. Besides the advantage of silage in the economy of preserving so large a percentage of the feeding quality of forage crops, it furnishes a succulent feed in the winter when it is needed to stimulate the assimilation of food in an animal, to keep the appetite active and the digestive organs healthy.

In a summary of its conclusions the bulletin says that any farm product can be siloed providing there is sufficient sugar in the mixture to be fermented into acid to preserve it. The following mixtures silo successfully and make a very desirable and nearly balanced ration: Alfalfa and

rye, clover and timothy or wheat or oats, oats and peas, and corn and cowpeas and soybeans. Nothing excels the feeding of silage, especially legume silage, during the dry summer months for keeping up the flow of milk to its highest point.

SEED CORN SELECTION

Every farmer knows where his best corn is in the field. He also knows a good stalk and a good ear when he sees one, and he knows that like begets like. Experience has shown that many farmers do not use enough care in saving their seed. It takes only eight to ten ears of corn to plant an acre, and the time to make the selection is near at hand. By going into the field just as the husks begin to turn, it is an easy matter to pick out good ears from the stalks that approach your ideal. Formerly it was the practice to consider only the size of the ear, but now this is not so. A good sized substantial cob is necessary, but the grains must be deep and well formed, and as nearly as possible of uniform length from butt to tip of ear. The cob should also be of uniform diameter, which gives the ear the desired shape. A good rule for the size of an ear of corn is that the circumference at one-third the distance from the butt should be three-fourths the length. Every farmer who grows over thirty acres of corn should grow his seed in a patch at one side of the field. It is not necessary to gather enough seed from the field, early, to plant your entire area, though it would be best to do so, especially in the northern section, but every farmer should spend a few hours at least gathering some of the best ears for a seed corn patch.

ROTATION VS. DISEASE

The accumulation of noxious weeds, diseases, and insects on the farm is one of the most serious sources of loss, according to A. F. Woods, dean of the Minnesota college of agriculture. This results as a rule from the constant growth or too long continued culture of the same crop or class of crops on the same land. Wilt in various crops, bacterial diseases, grain rusts, and weeds and insects too numerous to mention all accumulate in the soil under the one-crop system. These pests often multiply to such an extent that ultimately it becomes impossible to secure profitable returns from land thus infested. Resistant varieties must then be secured or crops cultivated on land not subject to these pests. All these troubles can be avoided and the fertility of the soil greatly improved by intelligent systems of rotation. The most profitable systems for any locality or type of farming, so far as they have been developed, can usually be obtained from your own state experiment station or from the department of agriculture at Washington.

MR. BRYAN AND SO-CALLED DEMOCRATS

The following letter, and excerpt from a speech delivered by Senator Ollie James of Kentucky, was published in the Winchester (Mass.) Star of July 25:

Editor of the Star: These few remarks by Senator James printed in the Congressional Record, so well state the facts as to Mr. Bryan, that I will ask you to print them, as a few so-called democrats are so glad to find fault with our great commoner at any and all times.

WHITFIELD TUCK.

Mr. James. Mr. President, so far as Mr. Bryan is concerned, no assault made here, no assault, in my judgment, made in the newspapers, no assault that may be fomented by political foes, can affect him. He is

secure in the confidence and affection of his countrymen. No resolutions that you may make will ever convince the American people that William J. Bryan would desert his post of duty when there was the slightest necessity for his presence.

That has not been his record in times of defeat. It will not be his record in times of triumph. Our republican friends used to tell us that if Bryan ever got into office he would ruin the country, and now the senator from Kansas is telling us that if he leaves office he will ruin the country. (Laughter.)

Mr. President, many distinguished men, as the senator from Missouri said, have gone upon the chautauqua platform; and let me say, of all the forces of uplift, of all the powers that have made for our progressive life, of all the influences that have battled to relieve the people from the clutches of greed, I most respectfully point you to the chautauqua platform. Free from the rancor and malice of partisanship, they gather to hear when they are cool and unprejudiced. They listen to these arguments, and the forces and the power of not only many distinguished men in this country, but more especially of Mr. Bryan, are responsible for the great uplift in this country and the trend toward better and higher ideals and purposes.

Mr. President, so far as criticism of Mr. Bryan is concerned, senators upon the other side remained silent and free from criticism of the president of the United States, Mr. Taft, when he went, at government expense, for the purpose of making political speeches, yet they freely and violently criticize Mr. Bryan when the speeches that he is making are those of a religious character, and I do not believe that even the republican party has much to fear from that.

And you may rest assured of just one thing, that Mr. Bryan will be in touch with his office at all times, and that at the slightest show of the necessity for his presence at the capital he will be here to perform his duty.

A VICTORY FOR ARBITRATION

Atlanta Journal (Dem.) It is a matter of keen satisfaction the country over that the employes and officials of the eastern railroads have responded to President Wilson's timely counsel and are now fairly on the way toward a just and quiet settlement of their differences.

This course of action has not only averted a strike that would probably have imposed hardship upon both parties directly concerned and well-nigh irreparable injury upon the public, it has also exemplified more luminously perhaps than ever before the power and the righteousness of the arbitration principle.

The White House conference, made possible through the president's initiative, brought together the heads of the railroads and of the labor organizations. It opened the way for the constructive influence of sober reasoning and engendered on both sides a spirit of conciliation.

Especially interesting is the fact that it hastened the enactment of the Newlands-Clayton bill, providing for the arbitration of wage disputes in a manner satisfactory to the roads and their employes alike. This measure, which had been pending, was rushed to passage in order to meet this particular emergency.

Arbitration is the fair and economical basis on which all such differences should be adjusted. It conserves the interests of those directly involved in an issue and, what is supremely important, it protects the rights and security of the public, which otherwise is helpless.

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